

# PREFACE

FM 3-5 provides the doctrinal approach for NBC decontamination (decon).

This manual integrates NBC fundamentals published in FM 3-100, *NBC Defense, Chemical Warfare, Smoke and Flame Operations*.

This manual implements STANAG 2426 NATO Contamination Control Policy for NATO Forces. Name changes in the levels/types of decon will standardize decon terminology throughout NATO.

These NBC fundamentals are integrated into the decon doctrinal concepts. The extent and timing of decon depends on the tactical situation, the mission, the extent of contamination, and the decon resources available. Reducing the effect of any chemical threat and survivability is the ultimate goal of FM 3-5. This manual provides detailed guidance on conducting decon operations for chemical and nonchemical personnel. Individual soldiers and leaders must be familiar with the basic procedures and concepts in FM 3-5.

Chapters 1 and 2, "Decon Concepts" and "Immediate Decon," focus on the basic knowledge required to apply the decon concepts. Information focuses on how the contamination will hamper their mission, and how application of decon practices will increase survivability.

Chapters 3 and 4, "Operational Decon" and "Thorough Decon," provide a series of options for improved use of unit assets. These options increase the output and speed up the decon process. Throughput is determined by resources and personnel availability. Chapter 5, "Special Decon Operations," covers decon on freed sites, key terrain, and urban areas.

Chapter 6, "Effects of Environmental Conditions," discusses how natural elements and weather affect equipment and decon operations. Chapter 7, "Aviation," includes decon techniques for all the aircraft in the U.S. Army inventory. Chapter 8, "Maintenance," discusses repair problems and direct and general support maintenance. Chapter 9, "Patient Decontamination," covers detailed decon procedures for nonmedical and nonchemical personnel used to evacuate chemical casualties. Chapter 10, "Logistics," provides information to assist the chemical unit as well as the supported unit in planning their logistical needs.

The appendixes of this manual contain a collection of reference data. If you understand the basics given in Chapters 1 through 10, you can use the material in the appendixes to make the basics work for you. When standard decon techniques are not possible or standard decon materials are not available, go to the appendixes for nonstandard techniques and field expedients.

The proponent of this publication is the U.S. Army Chemical School. Submit changes for improving this publication on DA Form 2028 and forward to Commandant, U.S. Army Chemical School, ATTN ATZN-CM-FNB, Fort McClellan, AL 36205-5020.